

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 045978
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-06 IO-13 COME-00 CG-00 DODE-00
DLOS-06 SAL-01 DOTE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 EB-08
FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00 LAB-04
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, XN, US, EC, CA, PLOS

SUBJECT: MEETING IN OTTAWA ON FUTURE OF ICNAF

REF: EC BRUSSELS 1567

1. DEPARTMENT UNDERSTANDS THAT THE SUBJECT MEETING IS
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NOT BEING CONVENED UNDER ICNAF AUSPICES, BUT BY THE
CANADIAN GOVERNMENT TO DISCUSS THE RESTRUCTURING OF
ICNAF'S PRACTICAL FUNCTIONS. DURING OUR PREPARATIONS
FOR WITHDRAWAL FROM ICNAF LAST YEAR, AND AS AN EXPLICIT
PART OF PRESIDENT FORD'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF THAT WITHDRAWAL
ON DECEMBER 31, THE US MADE CLEAR ITS DESIRE TO JOIN IN
THIS KIND OF DISCUSSION. WE BELIEVE THAT IT IS ON THE

BASIS OF OUR OBVIOUS INTEREST IN THE SUBJECT MATTER
OF THE OTTAWA MEETING THAT AN INVITATION WAS EXTENDED
TO US.

2. THE CANADIANS HAVE NOT DISCUSSED WITH US THE BASIS
ON WHICH OTHER INVITATIONS WERE ISSUED. WE UNDERSTAND
THAT ALL PRESENT ICNAF MEMBERS OF RECORD HAVE BEEN IN-
VITED. WE RECALL, OF COURSE, FROM PREVIOUS ICNAF
MEETINGS THAT THE ISSUE OF EC PARTICIPATION IN ICNAF
HAS BEEN THE SUBJECT OF SOME DEBATE WITH CERTAIN OTHER
MEMBERS.

3. WE BELIEVE THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT THAT THE US
APPRECIATES THE FACT OF EC COMPETENCE IN FISHERIES
MATTERS. CERTAINLY WE HAVE NO OBJECTION TO COMMUNITY
PARTICIPATION AT THE OTTAWA MEETING. PARTICIPATION
THERE COULD HOWEVER APPEAR TO OTHER ICNAF MEMBERS AS
CLOSELY RELATED TO THE MORE FORMAL QUESTION OF THE EC
ROLE IN ICNAF ITSELF. WE DO NOT BELIEVE IT WOULD BE
APPROPRIATE FOR A NON-MEMBER SUCH AS THE US TO URGE ON
PRESENT ICNAF MEMBERS A PARTICULAR COMMUNITY ROLE IN
THE EXISTING ICNAF STRUCTURE. THAT QUESTION, IN OUR
VIEW, IS FIRST AND FOREMOST FOR THE COMMUNITY AND ITS
NINE MEMBER STATES TO TAKE A POSITION ON, AND THEN FOR
THE COMMUNITY TO RESOLVE WITH ICNAF.

4. THUS, SHOULD THE COMMUNITY SEEK OUR VIEWS ON THE
ISSUE OF OTTAWA ATTENDANCE, WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO
RESPOND THAT (A) WE BELIEVE COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AT
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THE INFORMAL MARCH 14-25 SESSION WOULD BE USEFUL IN
DISCUSSING THE PRACTICAL FISHERIES ISSUES ON THE AGENDA,
BUT (B) THE US DOES NOT WISH TO BECOME INVOLVED IN
WHAT IT REGARDS AS AN EXTRANEIOUS JURISDICTIONAL DISPUTE
WITHIN AN ORGANIZATION TO WHICH IT NO LONGER BELONGS.
VANCE

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NNN

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Sent Date: 02-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
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